NEWS RELEASE

Alabama Department of Public Safety

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Automated Testing Expands to All DL Testing Sites in July

MONTGOMERY — Automated driver license testing will be available at every driver license examining office throughout Alabama beginning in July, according to Col. Mike Coppage, director of the Alabama Department of Public Safety. Coppage said eliminating paper driver license knowledge tests promotes security and efficiency of the licensing process and has a positive impact on highway safety in Alabama.

A grant from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration funded the purchase of new portable, lap-top testing devices and additional permanent testing kiosks. Coppage said the portable testing devices facilitate automated testing at part-time testing sites, where examiners must transport the equipment with them as they travel to various assigned locations during the week.
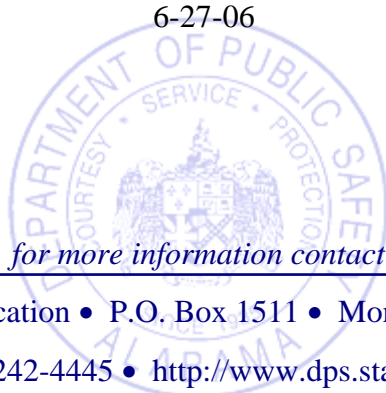
Coppage said FMCSA has provided a total of approximately $1 million in grant funding since automated testing was initiated in Alabama in February 2003 at eight commercial driver license testing sites. He said automated testing expanded to 16 examining office locations in 2004, and this latest expansion provides statewide availability.

Automated testing is available to all applicants taking the driver license knowledge test, including commercial driver license applicants, Class D or regular operator applicants, and motorcycle license applicants. CDL applicants may only take a single knowledge test at part-time stations, however. CDL applicants who need to take multiple tests must do so at a five-day licensing station.

The touch-screen system is user-friendly and helps applicants test more quickly. It also offers headphones to those who prefer an audio test. Since questions are selected randomly from a database of more than 800 entries, no two tests are alike, insuring the security of the testing process.

A list of examining office locations and schedules is available on Public Safety's Web site, www.dps.alabama.gov, under the Driver License Division link.

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